

The Illustrated Standard
of the
Sealyham Terrier



The Illustrated Standard of the Sealyham Terrier

The Illustrated Standard Committee, comprised of experienced breeders and judges has prepared this publication. The Board of Governors of the American Sealyham Terrier Club has approved it and believes it will serve as a guide for judges, breeders, exhibitors and fanciers. It does not change in any way the Official Standard of the Sealyham Terrier, as approved in 1974.

The Illustrated Standard follows the Official Standard, with the wording appearing in **BOLD TYPE** and the discussion in *Italics*.

Committee: Diana Perry, Chairman,
Karen Bay, Frandel Brown, Margery Good, Diane Ruszat,
Sharon Yard, Ex-officio

Credits: Illustrations - Patricia Peters
Discussion of the standard - Karen Bay and Margery Good
Graphic design and layout - Sandy Schneider
Cover artwork and design - Patricia Peters and John Bussjager

Pictured on front cover: A modern-day Sealyham on the path leading from the Sealyham Mansion in Haverfordwest, Wales.

Table of Contents

History of the Sealyham Terrier	4
Character	5
Underlying Bone Structure and Scale of Points	6
General Appearance	7
Height and Weight	8
Head	9 - 11
Teeth	12
Eyes	13
Ears	14, 15
Neck	16
Shoulders	17
Legs	18
Body	19
Feet	20
Back	21
Hindquarters	22, 23
Coat and Color	24
Action	25
Comparison of Ages, and of Dogs and Bitches	26
Judging the Sealyham Terrier	27- 29
Suggested Reading and Viewing	30

History of the Sealyham Terrier

The Sealyham Terrier derives its name from Sealyham, Haverfordwest, Wales, the estate of Captain John Edwardes, who developed from obscure ancestry a strain of dogs noted for their prowess in quarrying badger, fox and otter. It is believed he started developing the breed around 1848. He kept no records, but a noted student of dog breeds in Wales surmised that the original terriers were probably descendants of white-haired terriers which Edwardes' Flemish ancestors brought to Wales at the time of the Norman Conquest. It is also assumed he used the small white terrier resembling a bull terrier which is now extinct; also the Dandie Dinmont to shorten the legs, and the West Highland White Terrier to set the white color. White was necessary to distinguish the Sealyham from the varmint he went to ground after, so when he came out of the hole smelling like a varmint, the hounds could tell the difference. We will never know for sure, but despite all differing views, it is clear that the Sealyham Terrier with his mixed ancestry adds up to a remarkably attractive terrier just as comfortable in the modern world as he was in the fields of Welsh estates. The Sealyham's first recorded show appearance was in 1903 at a local affair in Wales and the breed was first imported to the U.S. in 1911. Since AKC recognition, the Sealyham has occupied a solid niche in the canine community. Though small in population, the Sealyham has made many trips to the winners circle, scoring over representatives of far more numerically popular breeds. The breed has garnered boosters throughout the world, with fine Sealyhams in the show rings and serving as family companions in many countries.

CHARACTER:

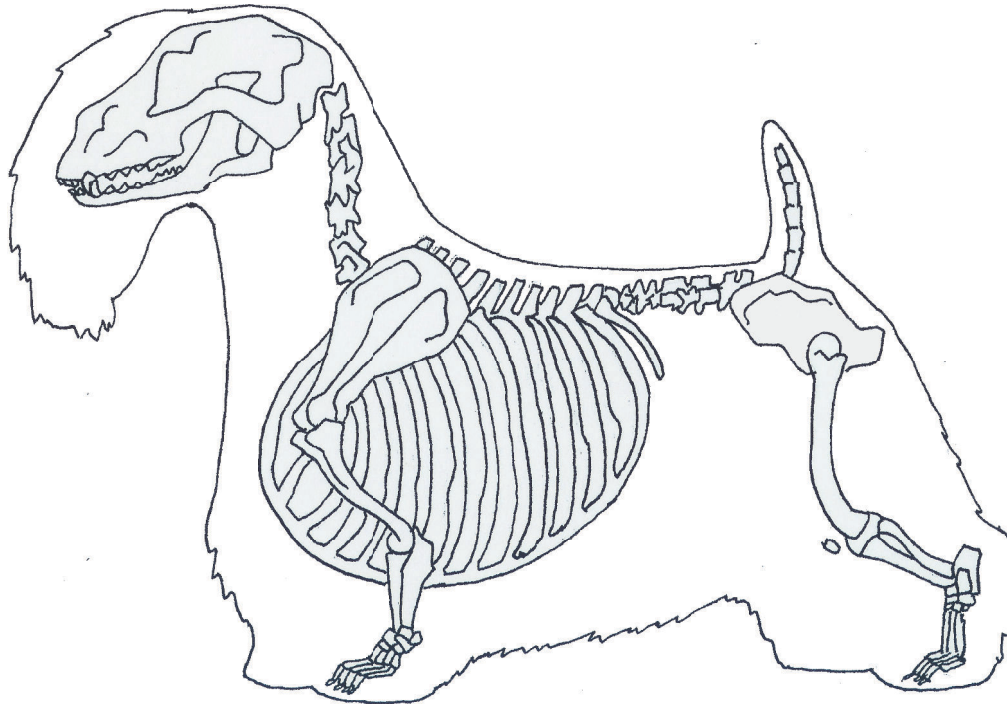
Although the standard does not mention “character” or “temperament”, no one could have written a better description than Thelma (Pat) Miller, one of the prime forces behind the Sealyham Terrier for many, many years:

The Sealyham is a proud, compact, sturdy little dog that makes an ideal companion for young and old in today’s modern world, adapting well to both city and country living. He expects the attention which he considers his due and enjoys a brisk walk to investigate the new smells in the neighborhood. He is very inquisitive and a delightful clown and surveys the world with supreme self-confidence and good humor.

Sealyhams are most charming and lovable, giving their owners endless love and devotion. While devoted to his family, he is never servile, even when being disciplined. He will rarely, if ever, cower, for he is possessed with an indomitable spirit and immense pride. He owns, he is not owned by his family. Once he has taken his place in the household, he is virtually assured of equal status.

The Sealyham’s temperament has remained one of his distinctive traits -- friendly and lovable, responsive to human contacts, a constant, loyal and devoted companion. Having had one Sealyham in a home is to be satisfied with no other breed, and that is the finest tribute that can be paid to any breed.

UNDERLYING BONE STRUCTURE



SCALE OF POINTS

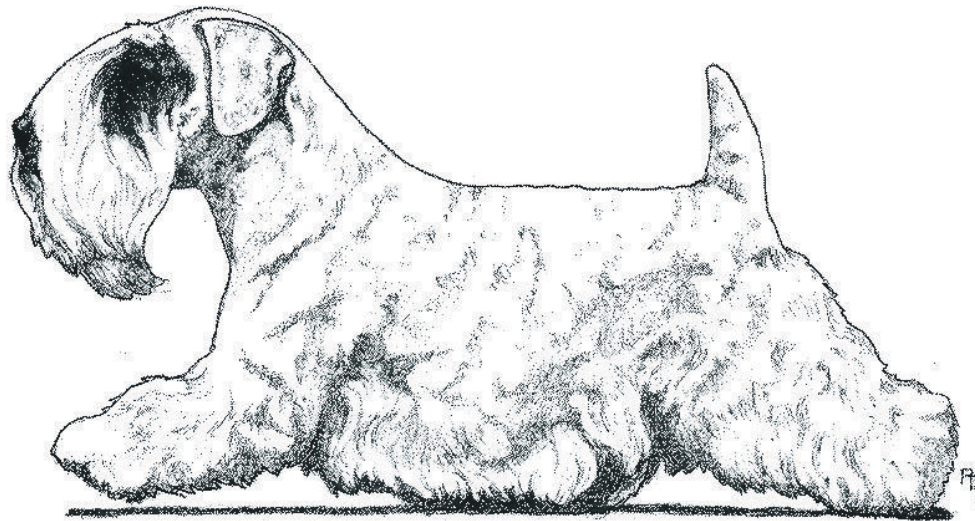
<i>General character, balance and size</i>	15
<i>Head</i>	5
<i>Eyes</i>	5
<i>Mouth</i>	5
<i>Ears</i>	5
<i>Neck</i>	5
<i>Shoulders and brisket</i>	10
<i>Body, ribs and loin</i>	10
<i>Hindquarters</i>	10
<i>Legs and feet</i>	10
<i>Coat</i>	10
<i>Tail</i>	5
<i>Color (body marking and ticking)</i>	5

STANDARD: GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Sealyham should be the embodiment of power, determination, ever keen and alert, of extraordinary substance, yet free from clumsiness.

DISCUSSION:

Conformation of the Sealyham may be characterized by the word "strength". The standard utilizes the word "strong" six times and the words "power/powerful" four times, plus the phrase "of extraordinary substance". Reading these words in context leaves no doubt how earlier fanciers wished to portray the breed. In addition to the appearance of power as he stands in place, the breed also exhibits a ground-covering gait, with good reach in front and a strong drive in the rear. The Sealyham in motion projects determination and energy, never lumbering, clumsy or reluctant. There is no single feature that outweighs all others, and balance of all parts is the key to this handsome terrier.



**STANDARD: Height: At withers about 10 1/2 inches.
Weight: 23-24 pounds for dogs; bitches slightly less.
It should be borne in mind that size is more important than weight.**

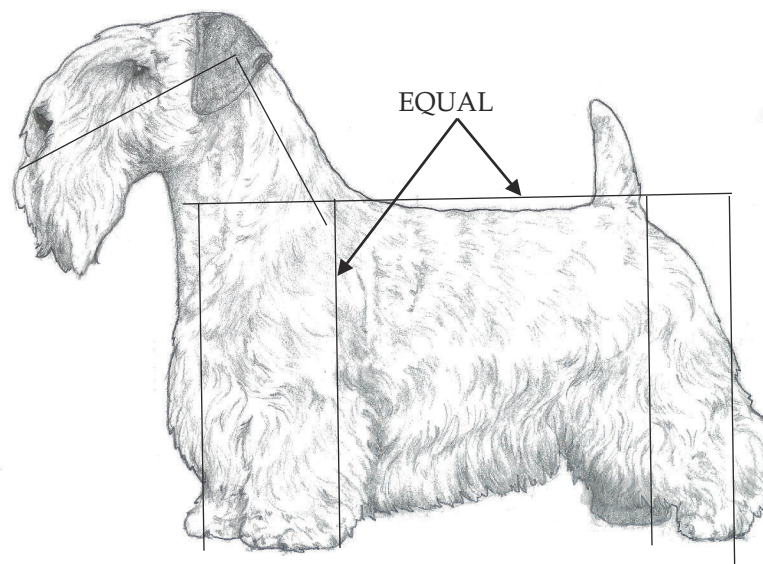
Discussion:

The height and weight specifications are guidelines only and breeders aim to produce dogs of the correct measurement of about 10 1/2 inches at the withers to the ground. Weight is most influenced by bone size and density, age and maturity, and the condition of the dog, including muscle tone. As long as the dog maintains the correct size (height), weight is not a determining factor unless the weight is the direct result of either too fine or too coarse bone, or reflects an extreme physical condition.

The Sealyham is measured from the withers to set-on of tail (approximately 10 1/2") and from withers to the ground (also 10 1/2"). This square fits into a rectangular structure created by the forechest in the front and the protruding rear in the back. These proportions (the square in the rectangle) are the basis for the overall balance of the Sealyham and if these proportions are nonexistent, the outline of the Sealyham will not be correct.

LENGTH OF HEAD = 3/4 HEIGHT AT WITHERS

LENGTH OF NECK = 2/3 HEIGHT AT WITHERS



HEIGHT AT WITHERS = WITHERS TO SET-ON OF TAIL

STANDARD: HEAD: Long, broad and powerful, without coarseness. It should, however, be in perfect balance with the body, joining neck smoothly. Length of head roughly three-quarters height at withers, or about an inch longer than neck. Breadth between ears a little less than one-half length of head.

SKULL: Very slightly domed, with a shallow indentation running down between the brows and joining the muzzle with a moderate stop.

CHEEKS: Smoothly formed and flat, without heavy jowls.

JAWS: Powerful and square. Bite level or scissors. Overshot or undershot bad faults.

TEETH: Sound, strong and white, with canines fitting closely together.

NOSE: Black, with large nostrils. White, cherry or butterfly bad faults.

DISCUSSION:

Measurements again emphasize the necessity for balance in the Sealyham in order to create the correct outline. They specify a head that is "long, broad and powerful", words that remind us of the original working Sealyhams that needed great strength to hunt badgers and otters in rural Wales. Any refinement, weakness or lack of length should be considered faulty.

The head should be in balance relative to the whole dog, without any suggestion of coarseness. It should not be long to the exclusion of strength, and a full muzzle and a square jaw are very much desired and easily detected upon examination. There should be no taper to the bite and breeders would do well to avoid breedings that result in a problem mouth. Typical of many terriers, the teeth are large and meet in either a scissors or level bite.

The "large black nose" is self-explanatory; suffice it to say that a small black button of a nose does not fit the head. A fully pigmented nose is also a requirement.

While the Sealyham standard does not address the profile of the head, per se, it is appropriate that the plane of the skull and the plane of the muzzle should be at the same angle, interrupted (or connected) by a moderate stop. Additionally, the skull and the muzzle should be approximately the same length.

FULL HEAD VIEW



Correct Head



APPLEHEADED, COARSE,
"PLAIN" OR "COMMON"



CHEEKY, SNIPEY, FLAT TOPSKULL,
LACKING FILL UNDER THE EYES



TOO LONG IN FOREFACE,
LACKING FILL UNDER THE EYES



SHORT MUZZLE, FLAT TOPSKULL

PROFILE HEAD VIEW



CORRECT HEAD



FLAT TOP SKULL, CHEEKY,
SNIPEY, WEAK LOWER JAW



SHORT MUZZLE, THROATY,
WEDGE-SHAPED HEAD

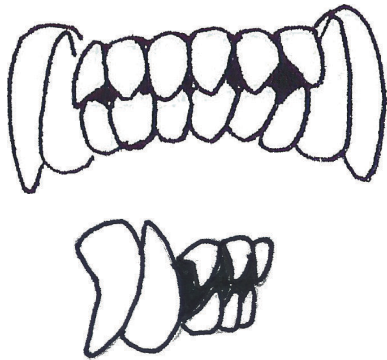


COARSE, APPLE HEADED, ROMAN
NOSE, CHEEKY, THROATY WITH LOOSE
SKIN, STOP TOO PRONOUNCED



TOO LONG IN FOREFACE,
LACKS STOP, TOO REFINED

SCISSORS, TOP INCISORS TIGHTLY
OVERLAP LOWER INCISORS - PERMITTED



UNDERSHOT BITE (FAULTY)

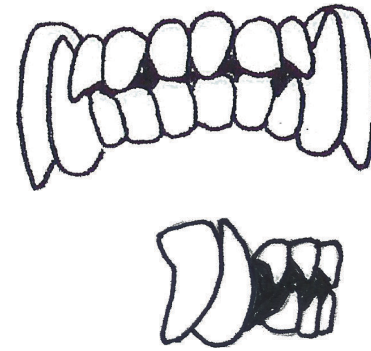


TEETH

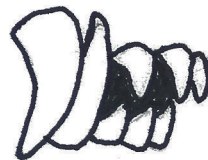
Correct:
Scissors Bite
Level Bite

Faulty:
Undershot bite
Overshot bite
wry mouth

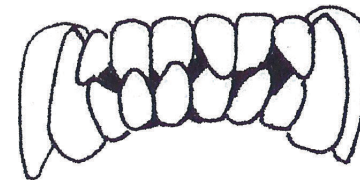
LEVEL, EDGE TO EDGE - PERMITTED



OVERSHOT BITE (FAULTY)



UNEVEN INCISORS,
WRY MOUTH (FAULTY)



EYES

STANDARD: EYES: Very dark, deeply set and fairly wide apart, of medium size, oval in shape with keen terrier expression. Light, large or protruding eye bad faults. Lack of eye rim pigmentation not a fault.



CORRECT - DARK OVAL



INCORRECT - TOO LARGE AND ROUND



SHAPE CORRECT, BUT TOO LIGHT

DISCUSSION: There is a common bond amongst most all terrier breeders that is characterized by a strong attraction to the "terrier expression". It is variously described as "keen", "full of fire", "sparkling and intelligent", "varminty" and "piercing". The Sealyham expression is all of these and more. Possessed of very dark oval eyes, this dog's "look" is further enhanced by eyes that are deep-set under the brow and set fairly wide apart. Eyes that are large, protruding or of the wrong shape are not characteristic and are a detraction. Eyes that are too closely set in the skull are not desirable and often placed in that position because the skull is too narrow.

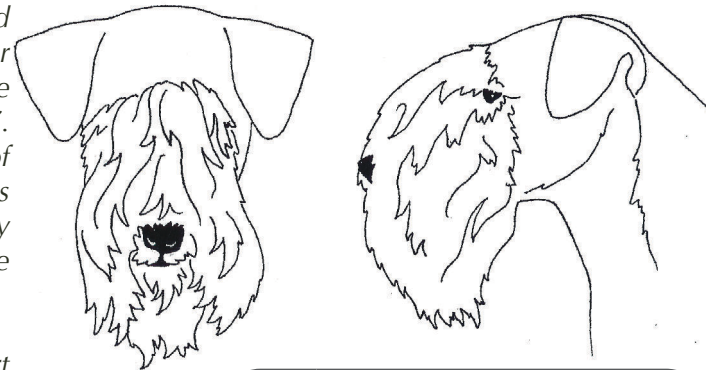
LACK OF EYE RIM PIGMENTATION IS NOT A FAULT.

STANDARD: EARS: Folded level with top of head, with forward edge close to cheek. Well-rounded at tip, and of length to reach outer corner of eye. Thin, not leathery, and of sufficient thickness to avoid creases. Prick, tulip, rose or hound ears bad fault.

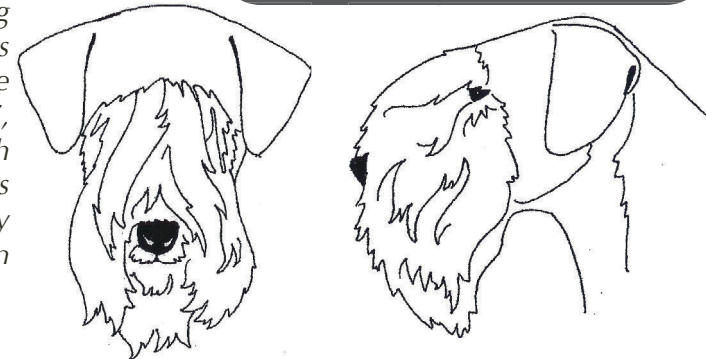
DISCUSSION: The Sealyham ear is described quite clearly, including that the set-on and fold of the ear is level with the top of the head. It is not a low-set ear, below the top of the skull, nor should it have a fold that is even slightly above the top of the head. Most all folded-over terrier ears are described as “triangular” and pointed at the end. The Sealyham ear is unique in being described as “well-rounded at the tip”. “Working” ears are an important feature and when something of interest comes into view or is heard, the dog will alert his ears. Eyes and ears can make or break the Sealyham expression: dull or faulty eyes and hound ears that simply hang to the side of the skull spoil the desired look of the Sealy headpiece.

Hound ears are typically so thin in leather that they cannot alert properly. An ear leather that is very thick and heavy may “work” but the ear will be angled out and away from the cheek. The illustrations to the right and on the following page depict a variety of ears, including suggested sizes. A point of interest is that the standard which provides specific measurements of the length of neck and head does not include any detail regarding size of the ear - not even a description of “large”, “small” or “medium” is applied. It does say the length should reach the outer corner of the eye. The lack of measurements for the ear leads to the perception of balance. The small ear will fit nicely on the slightly smaller head of a bitch; and the same size ear may look too small on the wide, long and strong head of a dog.

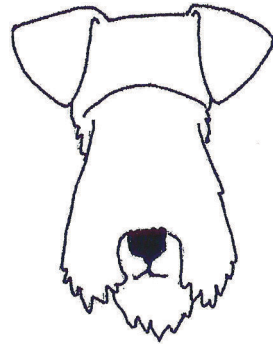
CORRECT HEAD/EARS:
EARS SHOULD NOT BE SMALLER THAN THIS



CORRECT HEAD/EARS:
EARS SHOULD NOT BE LARGER THAN THIS

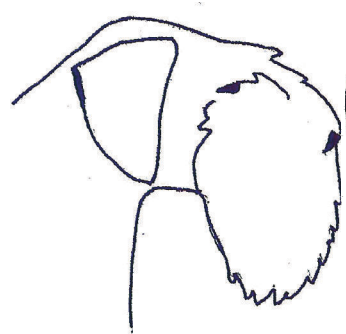
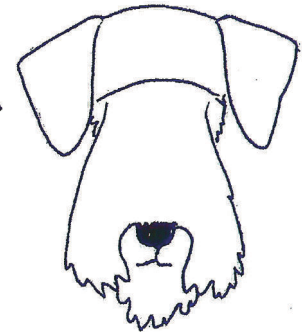
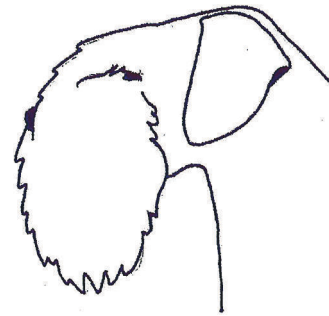


EARS - Faults



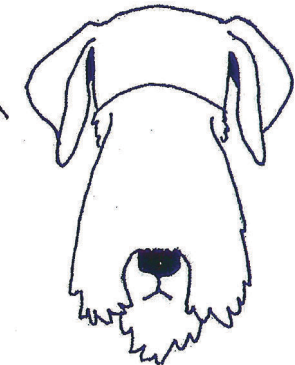
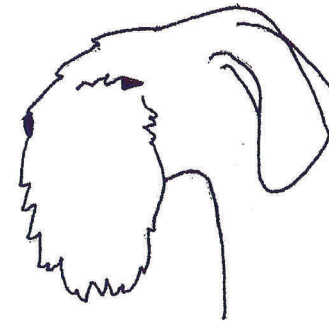
TOP LEFT:
SMALL EAR,
SET TOO HIGH,
BREAK ABOVE
SKULL

TOP RIGHT:
EAR TOO LARGE,
SET ON OK



BOTTOM LEFT:
EAR TOO LARGE,
SET TOO LOW

BOTTOM RIGHT:
APPROACHING
ROSE EAR,
MOST LIKELY TOO
THIN IN LEATHER
AND
WILL NOT ALERT



STANDARD: NECK: Length slightly less than two-thirds of height of dog at withers.
Muscular without coarseness, with good reach, refinement at throat, and set firmly on shoulders.

DISCUSSION: The length of neck on a Sealyham Terrier is a “given” - slightly less than two-thirds of the dog’s height at the withers. A neck that is too long will be out of balance with the head and body and will likely lack strength and the musculature needed to “get the job done” (refer to the original purpose of the breed). Though the adjective “elegant” does not fit the Sealyham as a whole, certainly “elegance” is in the eye of the beholder and aficionados of the breed will see the correct length neck with appropriate muscle development as not only conforming to the standard but elegant as well. In his book, “**Terriers of the World**”, Tom Horner writes that a “Sealyham with a good length of arched neck, carrying his head proudly and flowing smoothly into the top line has a great advantage over his rivals in the show ring.”



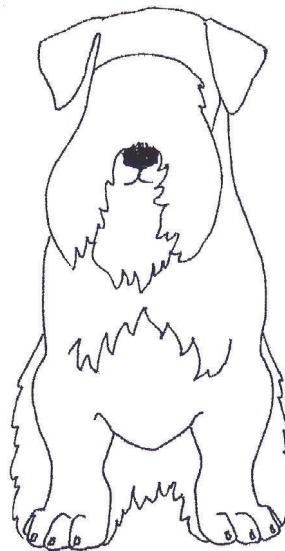
STANDARD: SHOULDERS: Well laid back and powerful, but not over-muscled. Sufficiently wide to permit freedom of action. Upright or straight shoulder placement highly undesirable.

DISCUSSION: The correct construction of the shoulders lends credibility to the standard's call for power. Well laid-back shoulders that lie smoothly contribute not only to the desired smooth forward stride but help to eliminate the short choppy front leg steps that make lots of flashy motion - but go nowhere. Correct shoulder and foreleg structure contributes to two major features of the Sealyham - gait and the presence of the forechest.



LEFT: CORRECT FRONT: LEGS AS STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE WITH DEEP BRISKET AND RELATIVELY BROAD CHEST WITH SMOOTH MUSCULAR SHOULDERS

BELOW: FAULTS FROM THE FRONT
LEFT: NARROW FRONT, TOO HIGH ON LEG, LACKS STRENGTH AND SUBSTANCE, SPLAY FOOTED
CENTER: OUT AT ELBOWS, FIDDLE FRONT, TOES OUT
RIGHT: LUMPY, HEAVY SHOULDERS, BOW-LEGGED, TOES IN, FLAT FOOTED, SHALLOW BRISKET

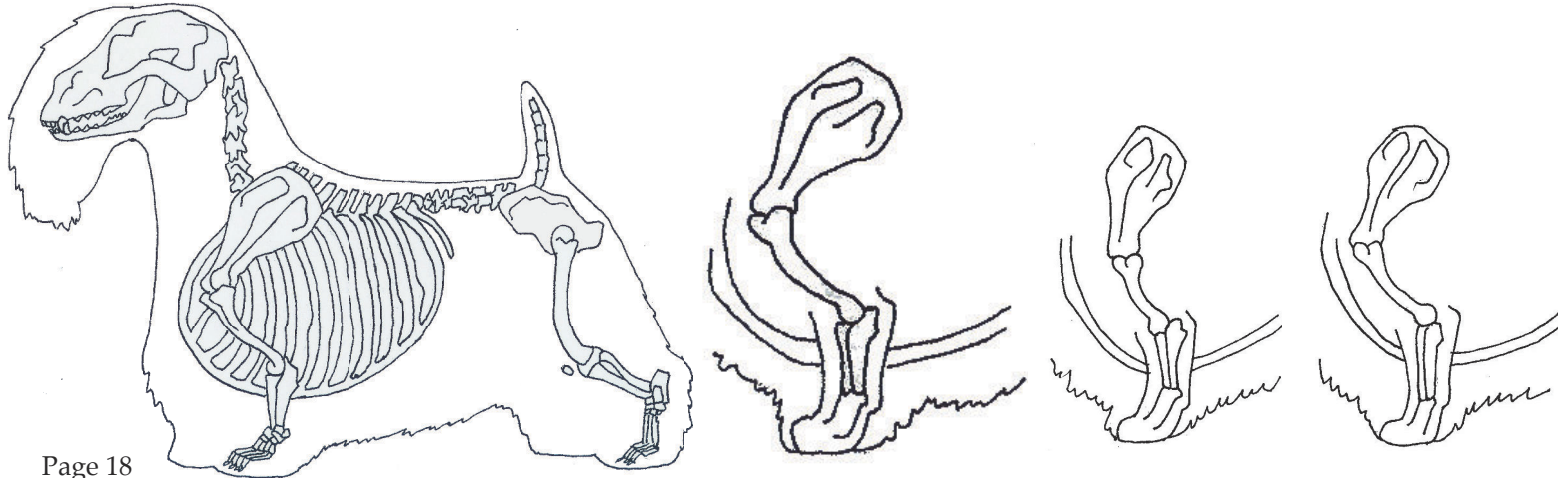


STANDARD: LEGS: Forelegs strong, with good bone; and as straight as is consistent with chest being well let down between them. Down on pasterns, knuckled over, bowed, and out at elbow, bad faults. Hind legs longer than forelegs and not so heavily boned.

DISCUSSION: Beginning with the elbow placed close to the ribcage, there are three more virtues of the front legs that should carry equal value: bone and substance, straightness of the legs, and size of the front feet. The degree of straightness of the front legs correlates with eliminating bowed legs, often referred to as a "fiddle front" and broken down pasterns. The bone and substance contribute to the essence of the Sealyham - refinement of bone is faulty.

STRUCTURE OF FORELEGS and SHOULDER

LEFT: CORRECT WITH PROPER LAYBACK OF SHOULDER, STRONG PASTERNS, POWERFUL FORECHEST AND DEEP BRISKET, LOW TO GROUND
CENTER: UPRIGHT SHOULDER WITH SHORT UPPER ARM WHICH WILL RESTRICT REACH ON THE MOVE, LACKING FORECHEST AND WEAK PASTERNS
RIGHT: SLIGHTLY UPRIGHT SHOULDER - NOT AS SEVERE AS CENTER PICTURE - TOO HIGH ON LEG, SHALLOW BRISKET AND LACKING FORECHEST, LIKELY TO BE LACKING STRENGTH AND SUBSTANCE



STANDARD: BODY: Strong, short-coupled and substantial, so as to permit great flexibility. Brisket deep and well let down between forelegs. Ribs well sprung.

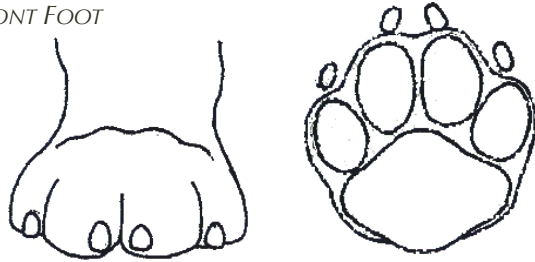
DISCUSSION: The ribcage is a fundamental of Sealyham construction and the breed should have one of the more "round" rib structures of any of the terriers. The ribs curve out and continue the curve downward, with the brisket being well below the elbows and carried between the front legs. A slab-sided structure is not in the least desirable. Looking down on the Sealyham when he is on the ground lends reinforcement to the characteristics of strong, short-coupled and substantial. There is no "wasp waist" and a side view should show no tuck-up. This body reflects the term: "extraordinary substance".

AVERAGE MAN'S FIST (3 1/2" - 4 1/2")
SHOULD FIT UNDER THE BRISKET WITH
LITTLE OR NO CLEARANCE

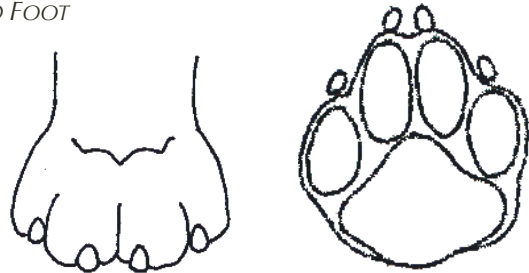


STANDARD: FEET: Large but compact, round with thick pads, strong nails. Toes well arched and pointing straight ahead. Forefeet larger, though not quite so long as hind feet. Thin, spread or flat feet bad faults.

CORRECT FRONT FOOT



CORRECT HIND FOOT



*CORRECT FOOT SIDE VIEW,
WITH THICK FIRM TOES*

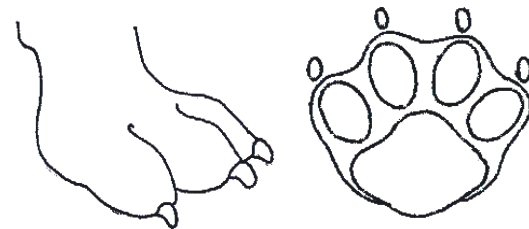


DISCUSSION: Big strong feet are necessary for the Sealyham to dig while hunting. The front feet must be large, round and well padded with substantial nails. Flat, splayed feet are weak. Symmetrical front legs, pasterns and feet are most desirable, and the tendency for the pasterns and feet on one side to be unmatched to the pasterns and feet on the other is a faulty construction.

INCORRECT FOOT TOO NARROW

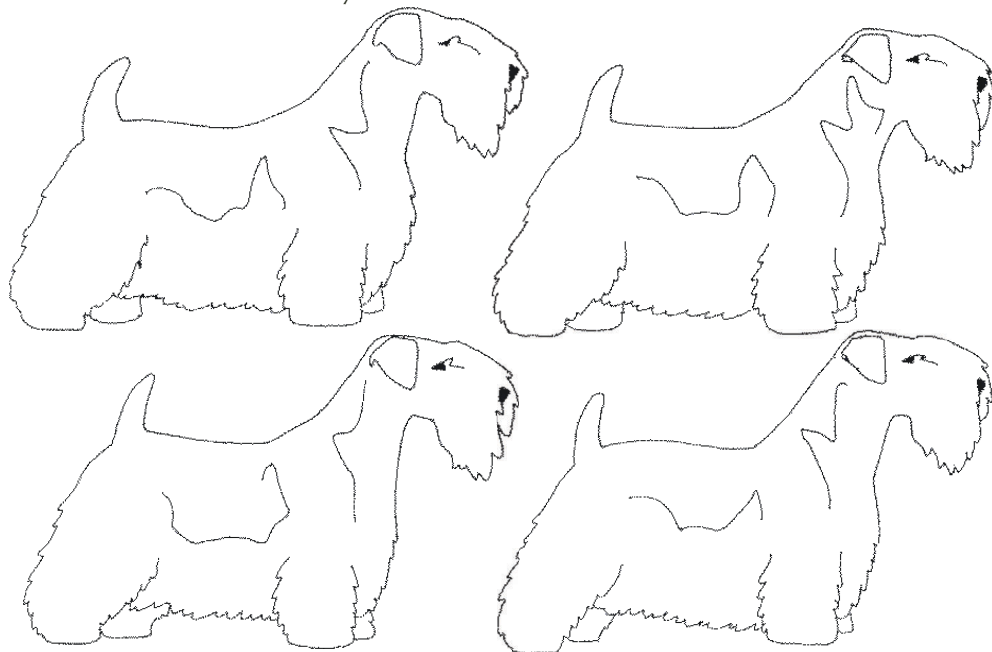
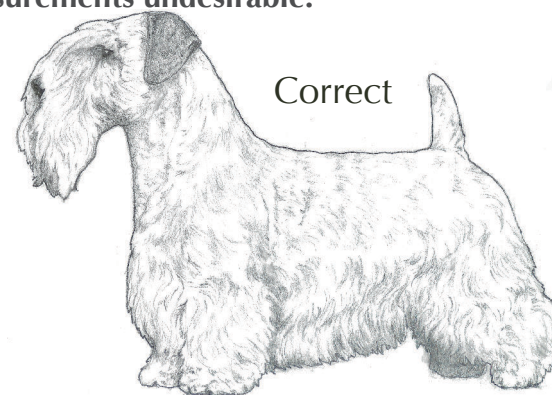


*INCORRECT SPAYED
FLAT FOOT*



STANDARD: BACK: Length from withers to set-on of tail should approximate height at withers, or 10½ inches. Topline level, neither roached nor swayed. Any deviations from these measurements undesirable.

DISCUSSION: The level top line is parallel to the ground, and should not slope from either the withers to the croup, or vice versa. The correct BACK length is relatively short; and the correct BODY length is achieved by the strong hindquarters and the brisket that sets in front of the front legs. In essence, there exists a “square within a rectangle” that is a necessary factor in the balance of the Sealyham.



FAULTS IN PROFILE

TOP LEFT: LONG BACK THAT LOOKS LONGER BECAUSE OF LOW TAIL SET, SOFT TOP LINE THAT WILL BE MORE OBVIOUS ON THE MOVE

BOTTOM LEFT: NECK LACKS ARCH AND SUBSTANCE, STEEP WITHERS, HIGH IN THE REAR, TOO HIGH ON LEG, LACKS FORECHEST

TOP RIGHT: SHORT THICK HEAD AND NECK, HEAVY SHOULDERS, TAIL SET AT THE END OF THE BACK (NOT LOW, BUT MAKES BACK SEEM LONGER)

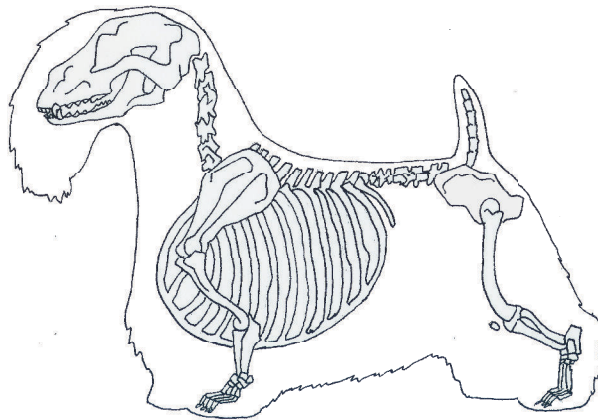
BOTTOM RIGHT: LONG BACK, ROACHED TOP LINE, LOW TAIL SET, LACKING ANGLULATION FRONT AND REAR, LACKING FORECHEST

STANDARD: HINDQUARTERS:

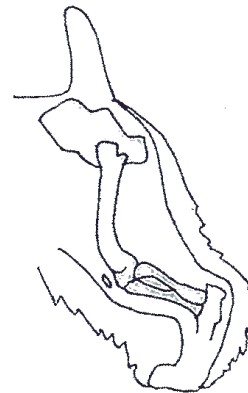
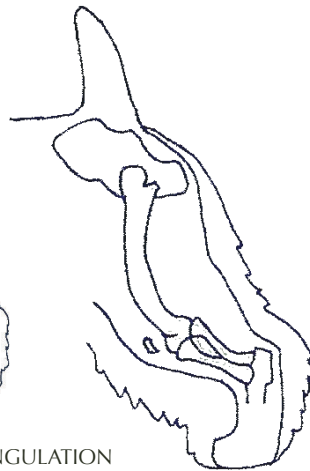
Very powerful, and protruding well behind the set-on of tail. Strong second thighs, stifles well bent, and hocks well let down. Cow hocks bad fault.

DISCUSSION: Sealyham hindquarters are marked by strength and fully developed. Further, the hindquarters protrude well behind the set-on of tail – an important factor in the profile. Any tendency toward a straight stifle will weaken the hindquarters and also negatively impact the profile movement. Over-angulation will also result in faulty movement and an over-angulated rear will result in an exaggerated profile.

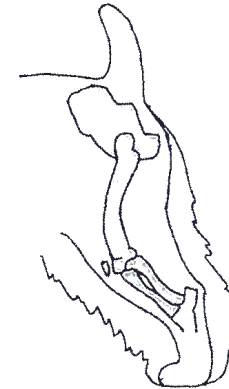
Structure of Hindquarters



CORRECT ANGULATION AND TAIL SET WITH HOCKS WELL LET DOWN



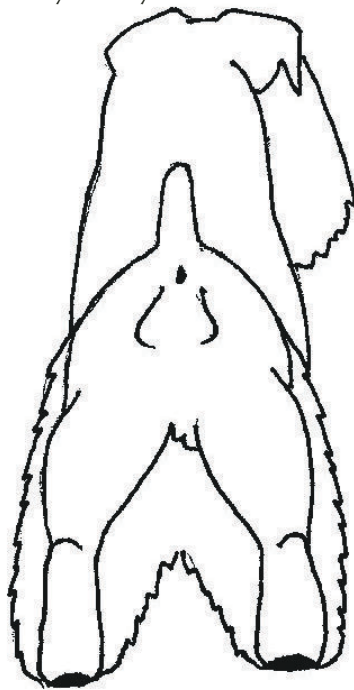
OVER-ANGULATED, HIGH IN HOCK, SICKLE HOCKED - MOVEMENT WILL BE UNEVEN AND MAY WELL CAUSE CRABBING IF MATCHED WITH UPRIGHT SHOULDERS



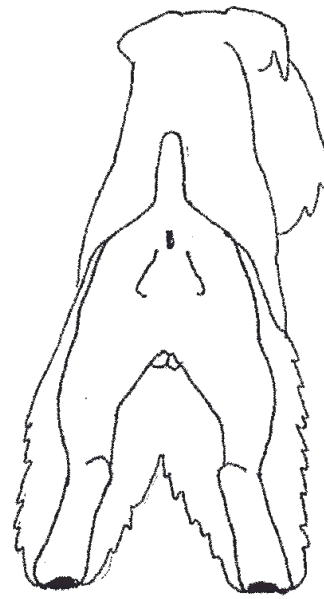
LACKING STRENGTH AND ANGULATION, STEEP CROUP AND LOW TAIL SET RELATED TO UPRIGHT TILT OF PELVIS, MOVEMENT WILL LACK DRIVE AND MAY CAUSE A BOUNCING TOP LINE

DISCUSSION: From the rear view, the back legs are positioned along the same track as the forelegs. A tendency toward a straight stifle weakens the hindquarters and negatively impacts the profile movement of the Sealyham. A dog that possesses long hocks is equally faulty and lacking in rear drive and strength. Sealyham hindquarters will be marked by strength and fully developed. Cow hocks are easy to identify and are very faulty.

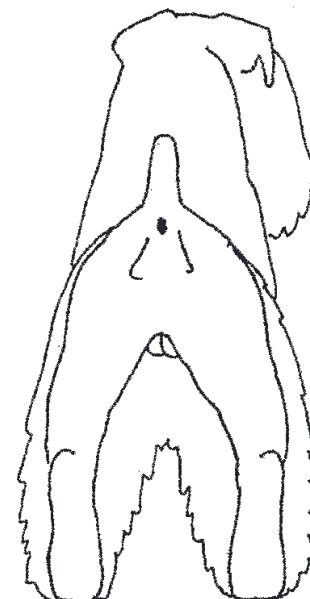
Faults from the rear view



CORRECT REAR VIEW
STRONG AND WELL MUSCLED,
HOCKS SHORT AND STRAIGHT



NARROW AND LACKING
SUBSTANCE, COW HOKED



BOW LEGGED,
HIGH ON LEG, AND
LACKING SUBSTANCE

STANDARD: TAIL: Docked and carried upright. Set on far enough forward so that spine does not slope down to it.

DISCUSSION: A correct tail carriage and set-on is a “fitting end” to the dog. The tail is not merely an “add-on” and the nicely placed and well-carried tail will contribute to the balance of this terrier. An overly gay tail is a fault, and an equally faulty tail is one that is set on too low. The top line (the spine) should not slope down to the tail set.

STANDARD: COAT: Weather-resisting, comprised of soft, dense undercoat and hard, wiry top coat. Silky or curly coat bad fault.

DISCUSSION: The Sealyham Terrier coat is comprised of two distinct hair types. The top coat is a wiry, fatter hair that can be straight or have a slight wave. Shorter hairs lie tighter to the skin. It is dense enough to protect the dog from wind and rain. The undercoat is comprised of finer, softer hairs and is abundant enough to protect the dog from extremes in temperature. The longer top coat hairs are plucked and will grow back into a smooth but coarsely textured jacket, tapered and blended into the longer furnishings to show off the smart Sealyham Terrier appearance.

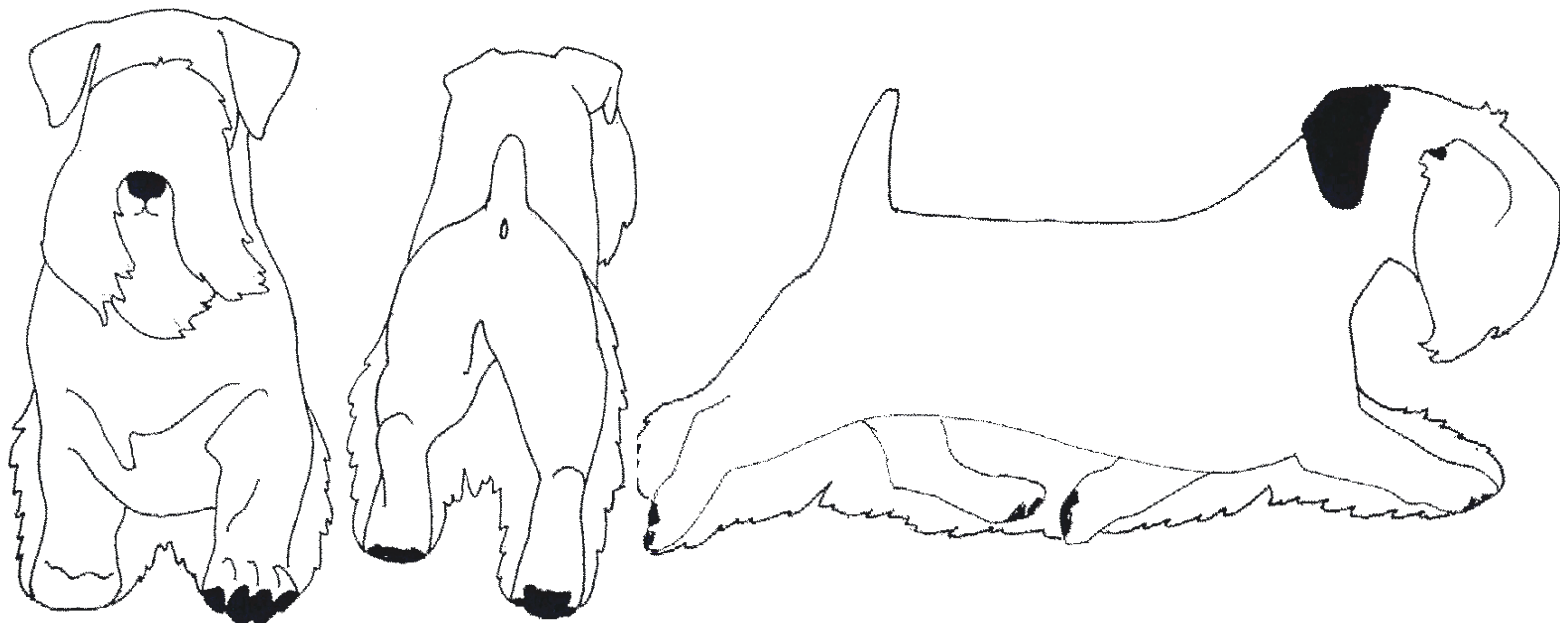
STANDARD: COLOR: All white, or with lemon, tan or badger markings on head and ears. Heavy body markings and excessive ticking should be discouraged.

DISCUSSION: Sealyhams have bright, white coats. Either an all-white coat or badger markings on the head and/or ears are equally acceptable. It is generally understood that “badger” can include black, and even tri-color (shades of silver, black and tan). “Badger” is a black tip on a tan or blue hair. Heavy or large body markings are not often seen in the breed, but can be identified in very young puppies. Excessive ticking often is not revealed until the Sealyham reaches adulthood and such ticking can be seen on the skin or undercoat, but never on the hard, wiry top coat. Heavy ticking and mismarks (patches of color on the coat other than the head and ears) are undesirable.

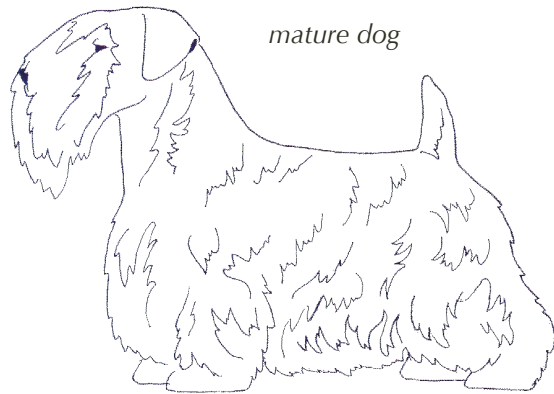
STANDARD: ACTION: Sound, strong, quick, free, true and level.

DISCUSSION: These words, six concise adjectives, describe the Sealyham gait, both “coming and going” and in profile movement. The front legs should move parallel and the rear legs should move parallel along the same track. From the side, the top line of the dog should remain strong and as level as possible, considering the surface. Front reach and rear drive should match to achieve the necessary balance and energy.

CORRECT MOVEMENT: FRONT, REAR AND SIDE



Comparison of Dog and Bitch



mature dog

LEFT:
TOP:
A MATURE DOG WITH STRENGTH AND SUBSTANCE AND ADDITIONAL MUSCLE THROUGH THE HINDQUARTERS, ARCH OF NECK AND PROMINENCE IN FORECHEST
BOTTOM:
A MATURE BITCH WITH GOOD SUBSTANCE, MORE REFINED THROUGH THE HEAD AND NECK

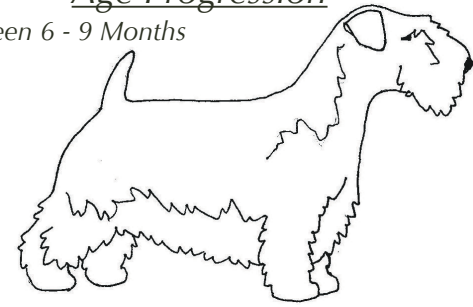


mature bitch

RIGHT:
THE SAME DOG OF GOOD QUALITY AT PROGRESSIVE AGES.
FULLY MATURE -
NOT JUST IN COAT, BUT SUBSTANCE PARTICULARLY NOTED IN NECK, FORECHEST, AND HINDQUARTERS

Age Progression

Between 6 - 9 Months



Between 12 - 18 Months



About 3 Years



Judging the Sealyham Terrier

Sealyham Terriers possess exceptional quality considering the small numbers that are exhibited at American Kennel Club shows. Breeders are dedicated to producing a high standard of excellence in breed type, soundness and temperament. Sealyham Terriers excel as companions, in performance activities and conformation.

First Impression

The Standard introduces the breed by stating: "The Sealyham Terrier should be the embodiment of power and determination, ever keen and alert; of extraordinary substance, yet free from clumsiness". This cannot be better said! Assess the balance of the exhibit; the measurement from ground to withers approximates the distance from withers to set-on of tail. Look for a prominent forechest and protruding hindquarters to make the outline rectangular. This relatively short-backed dog carries a neck with good reach, about two thirds of the height at the withers and a long powerful head, measuring about three quarters of the height at the withers. Based on these measurements, look for a dog that is well balanced, exceptionally sturdy, but exhibiting neither coarseness nor refinement. No single feature should overpower other characteristics of the breed.

The Sealyham Terrier will go around the ring easily, with strength, energy and a good deal of style. His happy and self-confident character will be obvious.

The Approach and Examination on the Table

Head furnishings of the Sealyham Terrier may hamper the dog's forward vision, so it is recommended that you give a verbal greeting when approaching the dog. A Sealyham should be pleased to make your acquaintance.

Identifying specific breed details is important in the head examination: long, broad, and powerful but without coarseness. Place your hands alongside the skull and muzzle, and be aware of smooth, flat cheeks and fill under the eyes. The full muzzle with powerful square jaws allows for strong teeth with a scissors or level bite. Measure the occiput to the moderate stop with thumb and forefinger. This measurement should equal the stop to nose. The width of the skull at the set of the ears should be a little less than one-half the length of the head. The skull is very slightly domed side to side, not front to back. There is a slight indentation between the brows. The skin at the throat line should be snug.

Lift eyebrow furnishings to see dark oval eyes that are deeply set and wide apart. The correct eyes, properly placed, are a major feature of this terrier's keen expression. A lack of eye *rim* pigment is not a fault. Ears are folded level with the top of the head, are well rounded at the tip, and are carried close to the cheek. The length should reach to the outer corner of the eye.

Continuing the examination of the Sealyham, you should be impressed with the substance and power and also with the smooth flow from the neck to the shoulder and to the body. It should be smooth with no protrusions or depressions. The neck is long, muscular and strong with refinement at the throat and widening at the shoulders.

Shoulders are well laid back, muscular but smooth and with enough width to facilitate freedom of movement. Straight shoulders or short upper arms are highly undesirable. Examine the front legs down to the feet to find good bone and as straight as permitted by the chest being well let down between them. Elbows should be tucked closely to the ribcage. A distinctive trait, tied to the breed's early history, is large round front feet with toes pointing straight ahead. The front feet are larger than the hind feet.

To determine the desired depth of chest, slide a fist under the chest behind the elbow to measure ground to chest. About four inches is desirable. The ribcage is well sprung, short-coupled and strong but flexible. The brisket is deep, well let down and extending well in front of the forelegs. This is a low dog-and examination of the lower half is as important as the upper half.

The topline is level. The docked tail is set on high and carried at a right angle to the spine. The hindquarters are powerful and protrude behind the tail to balance the prominent forechest. The thighs are muscular and wide, stifles are well bent; the hocks well let down and parallel. The hips are wide spaced and a view from the rear will confirm this structure. The rear legs are longer and more lightly boned than the front legs.

The coat is weather resistant, comprised of soft undercoat and a stripped, wiry top coat. Feel a little coat between your thumb and forefinger to assess texture and to verify the double coat. Look for textured coat in the furnishings as well.

Moving the Sealyham in the Ring

The proof of the structure of a dog is in its movement. Sealyham action is sound, strong, quick, free, true and level. Coming and going, Sealyham legs should look powerful and parallel. In profile, good reach and drive are evident. The Sealyham is "on a mission". On smooth ground a Sealyham will move smoothly but he can power through terrain that is rough or covered with deep grass. The topline should remain strong and the neck and head are carried above the topline. Allowing the dog to move at a full trot will enable assessment of action. Even though individuals will vary in speed, too slow or too fast a pace will prevent the dog from reaching his optimum gait.

Sparring Sealyhams allows a judge to see the dogs stand on their own and exhibit their posture and expression. Bringing forth two or three dogs at a time enables a judge to keep order in the ring and at the same time observe alert and keen attitudes and natural carriage and conformation.

Presentation of the Sealyham in the Ring

Smart grooming dresses an excellent exhibit, and successful Sealyham Terriers in the show rings are presented in top condition: a stripped, harsh jacket is blended into body and leg furnishings that are clean and trimmed to enhance the outline of the dog. Careful and considerate examination is needed to reveal the real structure of the dog and grooming the Sealyham by a skilled exhibitor or professional handler is designed to emphasize the desired silhouette and to minimize faults. The furnishings consist of somewhat porous hair that can be subject to discoloring and stain. In any case, attractive and correct grooming is a direct result of many hours of care and knowledgeable long-term coat maintenance. Judges should be respectful of this preparation. Other important factors relating to the Sealyham include good weight and muscle tone. Additionally, attitude and temperament in the ring will reflect the character of the breed.

SUGGESTED READING AND VIEWING

Chenuz, Frida J., *The Sealyham Terrier*, (London: W and G Foyle Ltd., 1960)

Horner, Tom, *Terriers of the World: Their History and Characteristics*, (London: Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1984)

Johns, Rowland, editor, *Our Friend the Sealyham Terrier*, (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1933)

Lee, Muriel P., *Official Book of the Sealyham Terrier*, (Edina, MN: Beavers Pond Press, 2003) Self-published by the American Sealyham Terrier Club

Lee, Muriel P., *Sealyham Terrier: A Kennel Club Book*, (Freehold, NJ, a division of Bow Tie, Inc.: 2007)

Lucas MC, Capt. Jocelyn, *The Sealyham Terrier, Its Working for Sport*, (Sporting Book Specialties, North Wales, 1920), reprinted 1990

Lucas MC, Capt. Jocelyn, *Hunt and Working Terriers*, (Great Britain: Tideline Books, 1931), reprinted 1995

Plummer, D. Brian, *The Sporting Terrier*, (United Kingdom, 1981) reprinted 2008

Rogers, Mrs. Byron, *Cairn and Sealyham Terriers*, (New York: Robert M. McBride and Company, 1922), Purported to be the first book on the Sealyham Terrier published in the US.

Russell, Dan, *Working Terriers*, (North Wales: Sporting Book Specialties, 1980)

Hutchinson's Popular and Illustrated Dog Encyclopedia, Vol. III, P-Z, Published in the mid 1930's. There are nearly 50 photos of Sealyhams.

DVDs

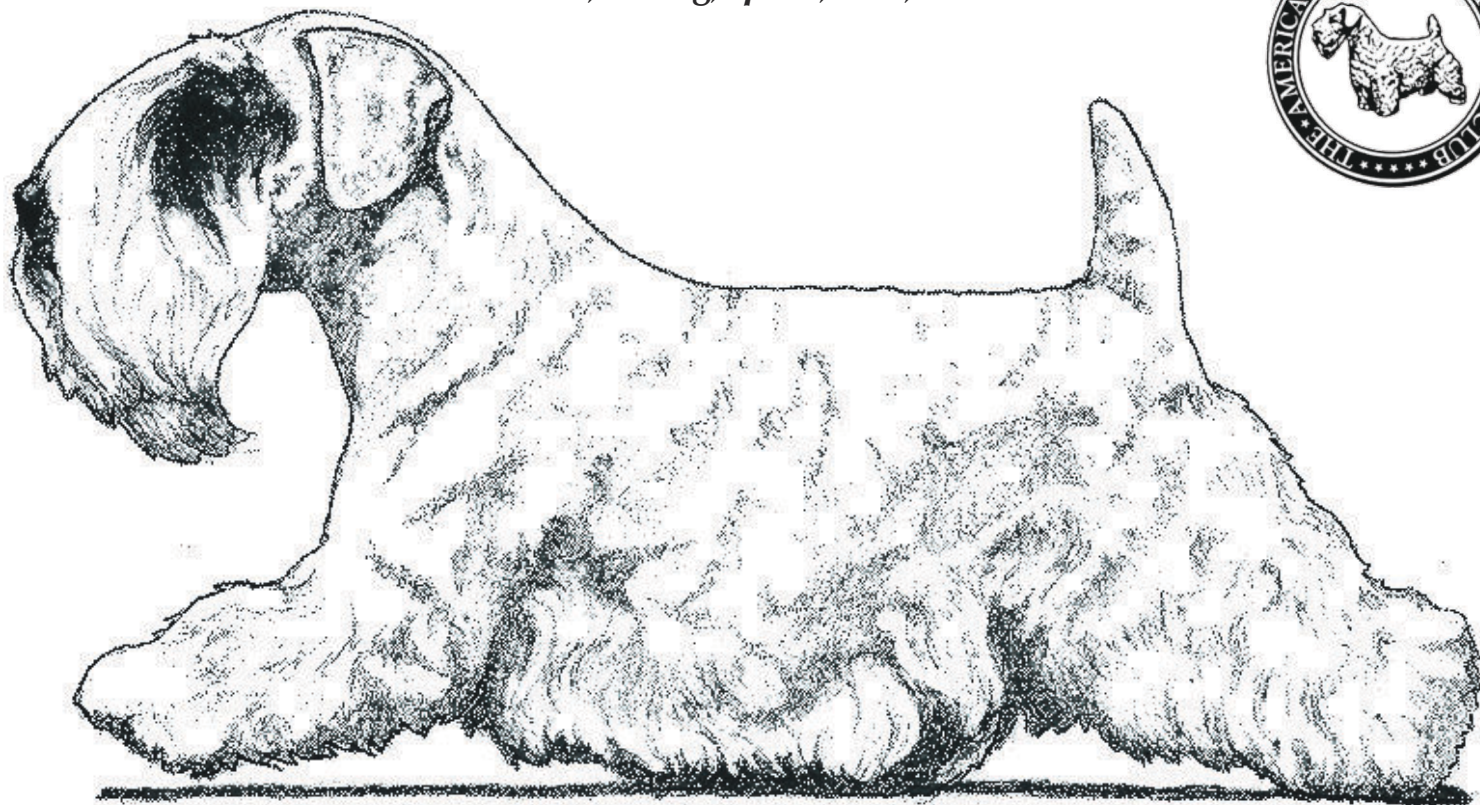
American Kennel Club, *The Sealyham Terrier*, (USA)

American Sealyham Terrier Club, *Show Grooming the Sealyham Terrier*, (USA: 2006), Featuring Margery Good and Sally Hawks. (3 DVD set)

American Sealyham Terrier Club, *Keeping Your Pet Sealyham Terrier Looking Smart*, (USA: 2006) Featuring Margery Good and Sally Hawks.

Notes

ACTION: Sound, strong, quick, free, true and level



©ASTC, Sealyham Terrier Illustrated Standard, 2011